AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Original) A phosphoramidite method for the synthesis of a nucleic acid oligomer with the use of a mixture of an alcohol-type compound and an acid catalyst as an activator.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~1 or~~ 2, wherein the alcohol-type compound is selected from the group consisting of hydroxybenzotriazole-1-ol (HOBt), a HOBt-derivative and a phenol analogue.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~1 or~~ 2, wherein the HOBt-derivative has substituents at its 4 and/or 6 positions.

5. (Original) A method according to Claim 4, wherein the HOBt-derivative is 6-trifluoromethylbenzotriazole-1-ol, 6-nitrobenzotriazole-1-ol, or 4-nitro-6-trifluoromethyl benzotriazole-1-ol.

6. (Original) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the phenol analogue is selected from the group consisting of 2,4-dinitrophenol, 3,4-dicyanophenol and 2-nitro-4-trifluoromethylphenol.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of Claims 2 – 6~~ claim 2, wherein the acid catalyst is selected from the group consisting of imidazole, tetrazole and their derivatives.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the acid catalyst is benzimidazoletriflate (BIT), 4-ethylthiotetrazole, imidazolium triflate or 4,5-dicyanoimidazole.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of Claims 1-8~~ Claim 2, wherein a mixture comprising an equal amount of the alcohol-type compound and the acid catalyst is used as the activator.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of Claims 1-9~~ Claim 2 with the use of a solid phase support.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of Claims 1-10~~ Claim 2, wherein the mixture of 6-trifluoromethylbenzotriazole-1-ol and benzimidazoletriflate is used as the activator.